(d) It is estimated that at present there is a gap of nearly five to six lakh tonnes between the total requirement and net availability of edible oils from all domestic sources.

(e) Government has authorised the import of edible oils by the State Trading Corporation for PDS and by the NDDB for open market sale at concessional duty of 20 per cent. The import of selected edible oils has also been allowed under OGL at reduced duty of 30 per cent.

Appointment of Managing Trustee of Super Bazar

3055. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1695 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 1994 and state:

(a) whether Government have appointed the Managing Trustee of Super Bazar; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such provision in the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act and Rules under which Super Bazar is registered and also under the bye-laws of the Store.

Letters written by MPs to Ministry

3056. SHRI MOHAMMAD AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) 201

(b) 185

(c) 131

(d) Negative — 24
Positive — 42

Other letters are of a such nature that these cannot be clearly categorised as positive or negative.

Assistance to Rajasthan and Orissa from consumer welfare fund

3057. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have so far provided any assistance to States of Rajasthan and Orissa from Consumer Welfare Fund during 1994 and till date in 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 7,27,200/- has been sanctioned to four consumer societies/organisations in Rajasthan. Also, a sum of Rs. 4

lakhs has been sanctioned to the Government of Orissa and Rs. 4,3o,320/- has been sanctioned to three consumer associations/organisations in Orissa from the Consumer Welfare Fund.

(c) Does not arise.

Identification of blocks under PM's scheme in backward areas to supply consumer goods

3058. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 798 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) what steps are being taken to increase the supply of levy sugar and other items to the States under PDS; and

(b) whether some blocks have been identified in the States under the Prime Minister's scheme in backward areas for providing the consumer goods at subsidised rates?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government makes bulk allocation of rice and wheat to the States/UTs for the PDS taking into account the demand received from the States, availability of stocks in Central Pool, interse requirements of States/UTs and seasonal factors. Levy sugar allocation is generally made on a uniform norm of 425 grams per capita monthly availability to the projected population as on 1.10.86. Increases in allocation of sugar for the PDS has not been feasible due to constraints in availability of levy sugar.

With affect from 1st June, 1992, the Central Government has been issuing foodgrains meant for distribution in the area identified for coverage under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) at specially subsidised Central Issue Prices which are Rs. 50 per quintal lower than the normal Central Issue Prices (CIP) for such foodgrains. Central Government has advised States/UTs that the end retail prices of foodgrains issued in these areas should not exceed the specially subsidised Central Issue Prices by more than 25 paise per kg. Central Government has been making additional allocation of 5.2 million tonnes of foodgrains per annum to enable the States/UTs to make available 20 kg per family per household in the RPDS areas. An overall increase of three percent in the total annual allocation of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) for the PDS has been made in 1994-95 and 1995-96.

The scheme of Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was launched by the Prime Minister at a function held in Barmer, Rajasthan on 1st January, 1992. The scheme is being implemented at present in 1775 block identified in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government provides foodgrains at specially subsidised rates for the RPDS areas. State Governments/UT Administrations had agreed to distribute on their own, additional items of mass consumption such as tea, iodised salt, soaps and pulses through fair price shops in the RPDS areas as per local needs and preferences.

Emphasis on adequate supply of Commodities to FPS

3059. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay more emphasis on Fair Price